

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING
February 18, 2022

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Alaska State Medical Board was held on Friday, February 18, 2022

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Wein at 8:36 a.m.

Roll Call

Board members present:

Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA-C
Maria Freeman, MD
Matt Heilala, DPM
Lydia Mielke, Public Member
Sola Olamikan, MD
Richard Wein, MD (Chair)
David Wilson, Public Member

Absent: Steve Parker, MD

Dr. Parker joined the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m.

Board staff present: Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator, Jason Kaeser, Occupational Licensing Examiner (OLE), Jacob Olsen, OLE, Alisa Perkins, OLE, Sonia Lipker, Lead Investigator, Billy Homestead, Investigator, Karina Medina, Probation Monitor

- New Board member David Wilson was introduced and welcomed to the Board.

On a motion duly made by Dr Wein, seconded by Dr. Freeman, and approved by roll call vote, the Board elected Ms. Mielke into the position of Board Secretary.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

2. Review / Approval Agenda

On a Motion duly made by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and approved by roll call vote the Board approved the meeting agenda.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

3. Review / Approval of Minutes

On a Motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Freeman, and approved by roll call vote the Board approved the minutes of the November 19, 2021 meeting.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

4. Ethics Disclosure

Ethics reporting by board members is done on a quarterly basis and is a standing item on the quarterly meeting agenda. The Chair requested Ms. Norberg query each board member.

There were no ethics disclosures reported.

5. DEA Update

Chair Wein invited Shane Pitts, DEA Agent, to address the Board. Agent Pitts alerted the Board to a new street drug, a synthetic opioid that is becoming more prevalent in Alaska. Twenty times more potent than Fentanyl, the drug is called N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene and is making its way to Alaska from China and Mexico through all means possible – with travelers on airlines, across the borders and through the mail. Agent Pitts confirmed the observation that overdoses and deaths from legal prescription opioids appear to be trending down as more practitioners are registering and participating in the prescription drug monitoring program.

Dr. Parker inquired as to whether it is suspected that people are shifting to more dangerous illegal sources for drugs as the rigorous monitoring of physicians who prescribe opioids has increased. Agent Pitts stated more data is needed. It is not clear if patients who use prescription drugs also use synthetics because synthetic drugs often do not show up on drug screening tests. Dr. Wein suggested that there may need to be more surveillance to determine a link between overdose deaths from synthetics and the prescription practices of the physicians. Agent Pitts reiterated the importance of accurate and consistent reporting from coroners and standardized testing of individuals who die from drug overdoses.

6. PDMP Update

Chair Wein invited Lisa Sherrell, Program Coordinator for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to address the Board. Ms. Sherril highlighted updates regarding the PDMP including: 1) The PDMP registration fee was reduced to \$0, effective 12/23/2021. This change marked a significant reduction of work for medical board staff, as there will no longer be a separate registration record and certificate issued for PDMP access. 2) Efforts are underway to better capture physician dispensing information and clean up existing physician records to accurately reflect actual dispensers. A delegate audit will occur in March. 3) License Integration was launched in January 2022, this helped to eliminate approximately 1000 stale accounts; 4) The Communications module went live on February 8, 2022 which will allow providers the ability to communicate to each other within the PDMP platform. A question was raised regarding whether this communication is discoverable. Ms. Sherrill agreed to follow up with the Dept. of Law to obtain an opinion on this matter. There was discussion regarding the value of the "Provider Report Card" and strategies for improving its use. Suggestions included changing the name of the report and moving it to the top of the screen. Chair Wein thanked Ms. Sherrell for her presentation.

7. Break

The Board recessed for a break at 9:49 a.m. and returned on the record at 10:00 a.m.

8. Dept. of Law update on Planned Parenthood Litigation - Margaret Patton Walsh, AAG

Chair Wein recommended that the Board enter into executive session in order to receive a briefing from the Dept. of Law regarding a case involving active litigation.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and approved by roll call vote, the Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310 (c) (3), for the purpose of discussing a matter related to attorney-client privilege. Board staff members Natalie Norberg and Margaret Patton-Walsh remaining during the session.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
Absent for Vote: Dr. Olamikan

9. Investigations Unit Update

Chair Wein recommended that the Board enter into executive session in order to discuss licensees identified for Board action.

The Board entered executive session at 10:05 a.m. The Board was back on the record at 10:31 a.m.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and approved by roll call vote, the Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310 (c) (3), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing activities by the CBPL Investigations Unit related to Medical Board licensees, board staff members Natalie Norberg, Sonia Lipker, Billy Homestead, and Karina Medina remaining.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

The Board entered executive session at 10:35 a.m. The Board was back on the record at 11:09 a.m. No matters for board action were identified.

The Board recessed for a break at 11:10 a.m. and returned on the record at 11:15 a.m.

10. Board Chair Update

Chair Wein introduced and provided an overview of three special topic areas that will require separate meetings for further attention and potential action by the board.

- Telehealth: A draft telehealth white paper authored by Chair Wein was presented and discussed by the Board. The paper outlines three categories of telehealth provider types in Alaska and asserts that a one-size fits all approach to licensure and regulating telehealth providers in Alaska is not ideal. Recently introduced legislation, HB 265, proposes strategies aimed at reducing the barriers for Alaskans to obtain follow up care and treatment for behavioral health services through telehealth. It was suggested that the bill is short-sighted with respect to looking at and addressing the “big picture” of telehealth in Alaska. It also fails to

provide any mechanisms for keeping the public safe from unscrupulous providers. The sponsor of the bill acknowledged in its first hearing that edits are needed and will be forthcoming. The Board set a special meeting date for Thursday March 3rd at 5:00 PM to discuss this telehealth.

- Physician Assistant Work Group: Chair Wein provided an overview of how the work has progressed in an effort to modernize the regulations that govern the practice of physician assistants. The process started with individuals representing the physician assistant profession submitting a draft with all desired changes to existing regulations. Dr. Wein submitted a counter draft. Both drafts were included in the board book for board member review. The work has stalled as several key areas of disagreement have emerged. The Board will need to weigh in on these issues during a special meeting to be scheduled at a later date.
- PDMP: Chair Wein explained that he participates in the “PDMP Chairs” meeting comprised of the Chairs from the six boards who represent prescribers of medications. The PDMP Chairs have identified certain areas where they believe change is needed. These areas include: 1) broadening the ability for practitioners to delegate their PDMP responsibilities; 2) elimination of the fines for certain PDMP related infractions; 3) creating a push notification for individuals who are overprescribing; 4) ensuring continuity of regulations across the six boards as they relate to imposing disciplinary sanctions. In general, there is agreement that it is time for a broader conversation to reassess the efficacy of the PDMP and to identify any aspects of the PDMP that could be eliminated.

11. Lunch Break

The Board recessed for a lunch break at 12:28 p.m. and returned on the record at 1:00 p.m.

12. Public Comments / Board Communications

Members of the public provided comments:

Christopher Dietrich: Speaking on behalf of physician assistants, and the regulation modernization project, Mr. Dietrich urged the Board to: 1) adopt a practice level collaborative plan instead of requiring board approval of collaborative plans; 2) remove restrictions on the delegation of prescriptive authority; 3) eliminate limits on scope of practice; and 4) eliminate the special requirements for remote practice.

Malan Paquette: Spoke in favor of the Board looking at telemedicine, urged the Board to explore and align with the work of the Alcohol and Controlled Substance and Criminal Justice Advisory Groups; and urged the Board to proceed with caution with respect to any interface with Vital Records.

Nate Saltzgeber: Identified himself as a recent graduate of Med Ex, working towards licensure to practice as a physician assistant in Alaska. He requested guidance with respect to what he needs to do to expedite the licensure process.

Chair Wein provided an overview of written communications received by the Board during the last quarter.

13. Division Update

Chair Wein invited Director Chambers to provide the Division Update. Director Chambers provided an overview the Board’s 3rd quarter fiscal report. Highlights include a one-time general fund infusion from the legislature in the amount of \$215, 314 to avoid a fee increase for licensees during the pandemic; and a slight decrease in overall expenditures as compared to previous years that can be attributed to less travel costs and savings related to staff vacancies. For the first time in 7 months, the Board is fully

staffed. Director Chambers reviewed a handout entitled “CBPL Legislative Guidance,” providing suggestions for how board members should approach communicating with the legislature and providing feedback on bills. Specific strategies to address HB 265/ SB 175 relating to telehealth were discussed. An overview of the legislative audit process was provided. Board members were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the 2019 Audit Report of the State Medical Board in preparation for this year’s anticipated audit.

14. Break

The Board recessed for a break at 2:41 p.m. and returned on the record at 3:00 p.m.

15. Malpractice Case Reviews

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll call vote, the Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310 (c) (3), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions for the purpose of discussing malpractice cases involving the following practitioners:

**Brian Affleck
Charles Canady
Ketan Davae
Alan Lemerande
David Morrow
Eric Schmell
Anthony Terreri**

Board staff members Natalie Norberg and Jason Kaeser remaining.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

The Board entered executive session at 3:02 p.m. The Board was back on the record at 3:54 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll call vote, the Board recommended no further action with respect to the malpractice cases reviewed related to the following practitioners:

**Brian Affleck
Charles Canady
David Morrow
Eric Schmell
Anthony Terreri**

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan, Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll call vote, the Board requested the Executive Administrator draft an advisory letter for Alan Lemerande.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson
 Nays: Dr. Parker

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by roll call vote, the Board requested the Executive Administrator draft an advisory letter for Ketan Davae.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan, Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

16. Applicant Review/License Approvals

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Richard Wein, the Board approved by roll call vote to grant the following osteopathic physicians, full licensure in Alaska, pending the completion of their application files.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan, Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein. Mr. Wilson

Lic Type	First Name	Last Name		Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
DO	Ali Reza	Abtahi		DO	Mathew	Smith-Cohn
DO	Aysh	Ahmad		DO	Aaron	Walter
DO	Ashgan	Elshinawy				
DO	Jonathan	Perkins				
DO	Michael	Pickens				
DO	Levi	Rizk				
DO	Jessica	Schnell				

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Wein, the Board approved by roll call vote to grant the following allopathic physicians, full licensure in Alaska, pending the completion of their application files.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan, Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

Lic Type	First Name	Last Name	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
MD	Matthew	Abts	MD	Angela	Egly
MD	Alexander	Adami	MD	Keith	Errecart
MD	Paul	Alberico	MD	Krystal	Estrada
MD	Andrea	Alexander	MD	Caleb	Euhus
MD	John	Alexander	MD	Michael Lee	Ettner
MD	Lusine	Ambartsumyan	MD	Yevgeniy	Freyvert
MD	Chalita	Atallah	MD	Kathy Ann	Gallardo
MD	Tina	Audie	MD	Amy	Geddis
MD	William	Bacon	MD	Laura	Gilley Hensley
MD	Sridhar	Badireddi	MD	Lorie	Hamiwka
MD	Norah	Baker	MD	Jonathan	Harris
MD	Sherry	Balauag	MD	Alica	Henriguez
MD	Darrell	Baskin	MD	Shawn	Hersevoot
MD	Robert Mark	Bernstein	MD	Katherine	Hill
MD	Baruch	Berzon	MD	Jonathan	Kole
MD	Anita	Bhagat	MD	Robert	Lawson
MD	Matthew	Blessing	MD	Anthony	Lebario
MD	Michael	Bounassi	MD	Paul Martin	Leonard
MD	Amy	Brandon	MD	Li	Li
MD	Thomas	Brewer	MD	Srikanth	Malladi
MD	Samuel	Browd	MD	Jaime Andres	Martinez
MD	Mark	Cain	MD	Kathleen	Mayer
MD	Jennifer	Casalletto	MD	Kenneth	McCarley
MD	Karin	Chen	MD	Karina	Mendez-Vargas
MD	Karen	Chisholm	MD	Dararat	Mingbunjerdsuk
MD	Eric	Chow	MD	Mary	Miller
MD	Valerie	Clemens			

MD	Odhett	Cojocar			
MD	Scott	Cole			
MD	Lars	Conway			
MD	Jay	Cook			
MD	Melanie	Crites-Bachert			
MD	Michael	Cunningham			
MD	John	Dahl			
MD	Michael	Doherty			
MD	Myra	Dove			
MD	Priya	Monrad		MD Robert	Segal
MD	Laurie	Montague		MD Penina	Segall-Gutierrez
MD	Megan	Moriss		MD Mohammed	Shiekmohammed
MD	Michael	Morrissey		MD Nicole	Shirvani
MD	Hussein	Musa		MD Karen	Skjei
MD	Teresa	Myers		MD Ednea	Simon
MD	Ajsa	Nikolic		MD Emily Daviau	Smith
MD	Sarah	Nobles		MD Steven	Smith
MD	Brett	Normandin		MD Alan	Smiy
MD	Jeffrey	North		MD Daniel	Spitz
MD	Frank	Novy		MD Zachary	Steinberg
MD	Henry	Ou		MD Suzanne	Steinman
MD	Kamaldeep	Panach		MD Scott	Stroming
MD	Anthony	Park		MD Camilla	Sulak
MD	Stephanie	Parrish		MD Freddie	Swain
MD	Franchette	Pascual		MD Asha Ann	Trowbridge
MD	Katherine	Pena		MD Kimberly	Truong
MD	Wilfredo	Perez		MD Isabelle	Von Kohorn
MD	Mansoor	Sajid		MD Mark	Wainwright
MD	Mark	Schlangel		MD Martin	Walker

		MD	Charles	Wallace
		MD	Michael	Wasef
		MD	Robert	Weir
		MD	Lynn	Westphal
		MD	Klane	White
		MD	Hal	Willardson
		MD	Gregory	Williams
		MD	Joanna	Wrede
		MD	Candace	Zubricky

On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, the Board approved by roll call vote to grant the following physician assistants, full licensure in Alaska, pending the completion of their application files.

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Olamikan Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein, Mr. Wilson

Lic Type	First Name	Last Name	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
PA	Andrea	Allen	PA	Shawn	McLane
PA	Erika	Arthur	PA	Maggie	McNamara
PA	Norbel	Brautigam	PA	Kelsey	Miller
PA	Kossa	Diomande	PA	Olayinka	Olasimbo
PA	Elizabeth	Gruber	PA	Yewande	Olasimbo
PA	Kathleen	Hagan	PA	Oren	Pedersen
PA	Monique	Hathaway	PA	Ben	Prom
PA	Gregory	Hau	PA	Paige	Sanders
PA	Issac	Henry	PA	Katherine	Schmidt
PA	Randy	Jackson	PA	Katelyn	Stearns
PA	Kinzea	Jones	PA	Michael	Thruangsngs-Kent
PA	Molly	Lewis			

PA	Mitchell	Marks
PA	Nicole	McElaney

PA	Matthew	Wilhelm
PA	Connor	Wood

16. Closing Business / Adjournment

The next quarterly meeting date was confirmed for Friday, May 20, 2021.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to the Board and to the members of the public for their participation in the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ *Natalie Norberg*

Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator
Alaska State Medical Board

05/20/2022

Date

Approved:

/s/ *Richard Wein* MD

Richard Wein, MD, President
Alaska State Medical Board

5 / 20 / 22

Date